

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 DACCA 03706 191442Z

53

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 SWF-02 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 HEW-08 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-20

SP-03 NSC-07 IGA-02 AID-20 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

DODE-00 DRC-01 /124 W

----- 115552

O 190900Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3999

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DACCA 03706

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA H)

ALSO FOR FDRC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SWEL, BG

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH FLOODS

REF: STATE 180210

BEGIN SUMMARY. SINCE MOST CRITICAL PROBLEM CREATED BY THIS YEAR'S FLOOD IS SEVERE FOOD SHORTAGE, WE RECOMMEND PRIMARY U.S. RESPONSE BE 25,000 TONS OF BISCUITS, 50,000 TONS OF PL-480, TITLE II FOODGRAINS, AND INCREASE TO 200,000 TONS IN FIRST QUARTER TITLE I ALLOCATIONS. WE RECOMMEND USG PROVIDE NEW \$4 MILLION GRANT SO THAT EMERGENCY AGRICULTURAL CREDIT GRANT IS ADDITIVE TO TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE BDG, THEREBY AVOIDING THE DISRUPTION OF ONGOING PROGRAMS THAT WILL OTHERWISE RESULT. THE LONGER TERM EFFECT OF THE FLOOD ON BDG DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED BY THE BANGLADESH CONSORTIUM. END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 DACCA 03706 191442Z

1. WE WELCOME OPPORTUNITY AFFORDED BY REFTTEL REQUEST

TO RECAP SITUATION AS WELL AS TO OFFER ADDITIONAL
VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

2. SITUATION.

(A) WHILE EXPERTS STILL ASSESSING HYDROLOGICAL DATA,
BANGLADESH IN FACT FACES ITS MOST SERIOUS FLOOD IN TWO
DECADES REQUIRING BOTH IMMEDIATE RELIEF AND LONGER-
TERM ASSISTANCE;

(B) BANGLADESH DELTA FLOODS ANNUALLY AND BENGAL FARMER
WITH LOTS OF FLOOD EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THIS YEAR
CUSTOMARY RESILIENCE IN RESPONDING TO WHAT IS MORE
PROLONGED, DEEPER AND MORE EXTENSIVE FLOODING THAN
USUAL. THIS LONG EXPERIENCE WITH FLOODS IS A FACTOR
LIMITING NEED FOR IMMEDIATE RELIEF;

(C) EMERGENCY RELIEF IS COMING FROM MANY SOURCES. WESTERN
AND SOVIET-BLOC DONORS ARE RESPONDING WITH EMERGENCY
AID (WE ARE CABLEING UPDATED LIST OF NEEDS) AND MANY
IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARE ON WAY TO BEING MET;

(D) WHAT WE BELIEVE MAY NOT BE AS CLEARLY RECOGNIZED
WORLD-WIDE ARE LONGER-TERM EFFECTS OF THIS DISASTER
ON GRAVELY WEAK BANGLADESH ECONOMY AND FAR FROM STURDY
POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS;

(E) WHAT RECEDING FLOOD WATERS WILL LEAVE BEHIND IS
REDUCED FOOD PRODUCTION AND CONSEQUENTLY INCREASED NEED FOR
IMPORTS FOR MODIFIED RATION SYSTEM. (DACCA 3694 DETAILS
BDG ASSESSMENT; AN IBRD EXPERT IS ALSO EXAMINING THIS
QUESTION.) THE BDG HAS JUST ANNOUNCED A FURTHER
RATION CUT EFFECTIVE AUGUST 19.

(F) OUR 3607, PARA 8 CONTAINS OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE
POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF A BDG FAILURE TO
COPE WITH THE FLOOD/FOOD EMERGENCY; WHAT WE WISH TO
EMPHASIZE HERE IS THAT THIS NEED TO COPE IS NOT A
PROBLEM LIMITED TO ONLY 30 OR 60 DAYS;

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 DACCA 03706 191442Z

(G) THE AMAN HARVEST WILL BEGIN ONLY IN NOVEMBER AND
EVEN WITH THE IMMEDIATE PROVISION OF CREDIT FOR SEED
PURCHASES LOCALLY (DACCA 3679), AND SUCH LONGER-TERM
DEVELOPMENT INPUTS AS FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDES, THAT
CROP WILL BE BELOW (THE BDG ESTIMATES ONE MILLION TONS
BELOW) THE ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN GOAL OF 7.3 MILLION
TONS (NOTWITHSTANDING POSSIBILITY OF COMPENSATION INCREASE IN
PRODUCTION IN PERIPHERAL AREAS);

(H) IN GENERAL, THE BRUNT OF THE SHORT-FALL WILL FALL ON THOSE URBAN DWELLERS NOW INELIGIBLE FOR RATIONS. COMMERCIAL SUPPLIES WILL BE SHORT AND PRICES HIGH, (OPEN MARKET RICE PRICES HAVE RISEN BY OVER 50 PERCENT IN THE PAST MONTH ALONE), AND THE RATION SYSTEM WILL PROVE INADEQUATE TO MAKE UP THE DIFFERENCE;

(I) IN SUM, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EFFECT OF THESE FLOODS HWE BEEN TO INCREASE SHARPLY THE NEED OVER THE NEXT FOUR MONTHS FOR GREATER AMOUNTS OF IMPORTED FOODGRAINS THAT ARE NOAI N VIEW. BDG THUS FACES SIMULTANEOUS NEED TO (A) MEED STATUTORY RATION; (B) EXPAND MODIFIED RATION; AND (C) DISTRIBUTE FREE FOOD TO FLOOD VICTIMS WITHOUT PURCHASING POWER.

(J) SOME ADDITIONAL IMMEDIATE NEEDS CAN ALSO BE IDENTIFIED, IN CONSULTATION WITH CLARY, FDRC, ON THE BASIS OF BDG REQUESTS AND OTHER DONORS' CONTRIBUTIONS.8\$

3. RECOMMENDATONS:

(A) THE 25,000 TONS OF FORTIFIED BISCUITS (STATE 180578) ARE NEEDED: THE FULL AMOUNT SHOULD BE LOCATED AND SHIPPED; THE FIRST 133,000 POUNDS BY AIR; REMAINDER BY SHIP. (AS AIR SHIPMENT WILL NOT FILL TWO PLANES, SECOND PLANE SHOULD ALSO BRING 20 X 100 FT. FOOLS OF POLYETHYLENE MATZR EL FOR EMERGENCY COVERING.) VOLAGS HAVE EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST BISCUIT DISTRIBUTION.

(B) SINCE BANGLADESH FLOOD NEEDS ARE ADDITIVE, THE \$4 MILLION IN AGRICULTURAL CREDIT FOR SEED (STATE 180240) SHOULD BE REPLACED WITH AN ADDITIONAL US GRANT OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 DACCA 03706 191442Z

EQUIVALENT AMOUNT TO ENABLE PREVIOUSLY PROGRAMMED R & R ACTIVITIES TO BE COMPLETED.

(C) 50,000 TONS OF FOODGRAINS UNDER PL-480, TITLE II (DACCA 3607) SHOULD BE APPROVED AT ONCE TO FEED (ON REPLACEMENT BASIS) THOSE IN THE COUNTRY-SIDE WHOSE STOCKS HAVE BEEN LOST, AND OTHER FLOOD VICTIMS.

(D) THE FIRST QUARTER PL-480 TITLE I ALLOCATION FOR BANGLADESH SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY INCREASE TO 200,000 TONS TO INSURE THE CONTINUED FLOW OF FOODGRAINS THROUGH THE STATUTORY AND EXPANDED MODIFIED RATION SYSTEM.

(E) TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, OUR LONGER-TERM RESPONSE TO THE LINGERING ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF THE FLOOD SHOULD

BE FOCUSED ON ACTIVITIES THAT HOLD PROMISE OF
CONTRIBUTION TO BANGLADESH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS.
THIS TOPIC SHOULD BE SPECIFICALLY DISCUSSED AT THE
FIRST AID-BANGLADESH CONSURTIUM MEETING.
BOSTER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, FOOD SHORTAGE, FLOODS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, PL 480 TITLE 1, PL 480 TITLE 2
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DACCA03706
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740227-1040
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740837/aaaabfuq.tel
Line Count: 174
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 180210
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Aug-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BANGLADESH FLOODS
TAGS: EAID, SWEL, BG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005